



Youth Investment Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 9:00am

Present: Ivan Adorno, David Blevins, Sherri Goldberg, Charles Hager, Kristine Jackson, Bertalan Kormann, Ushindi Lewis, Evelyn Rosa, Harriet Slonim, Mary Tarrant

Staff: Kevin Kurdziel, Jody Bramson, Rick DeJesus, Janice Alexander, Nicole Joseph, Nicole Montero

Jody Bramson, Youth One Stop Manager, began the meeting with the introduction of all members present and guests.

Approval of minutes from the November 6, 2014 Meeting

David Blevins motioned to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2014 YIC meeting as distributed previously by email and Mary Tarrant seconded. The vote was called and the motion passed to approve the minutes as written.

Proposed Meeting Schedule Change

The Chairperson of the Committee, Susan Pasternak, has a work conflict with the regular schedule of meetings on the first Tuesdays of February, May, August and September and would like to change them to the second Tuesday of those months.

Performance Measures

Ms. Bramson reported that the youth program did very well and passed all their performance measures for the second quarter of this program year.

WIA/WIOA Update for Youth

Ms. Bramson reported that the WIOA will be replacing "Literacy and Numeracy" with a "Skills Attainment Measure" and will be adding a "Wage Earnings Measure." In July, the Youth program will start serving youth between the ages of 16 – 24. Also 20% of you youth funds have been mandated to be used Work Experience. As of July 1, 2015 annual income is no longer required in determining eligibility for WIOA if a youth does possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

State Audit

Ms. Bramson reported that verbal confirmation was given by the State that we passed the audit conducted this past summer for Work Experience and for the audit conducted in December. We are still waiting for the written confirmation from the State.

Status High School Equivalency Examination

Ms. Bramson reported that since July 1 until present, 25 students have passed the HSE examination. The Youth Program is planning a graduation for the first week in June which will be held at Middlesex County College. We are inviting all the participants who passed the HSE examination from April 2014 through May 2015 to attend the graduation.

New Program Year: Status of Five Programs

MCC Work Readiness:

There are a total of 14 participants in the Work Readiness program; 3 carry-ins and 11 new participants.

MCC Work Readiness program is having major issues in recruiting students for the program this year and has added another cycle this year due to low enrollments.

MCC Perth Amboy GED:

There are a total of 26 participants in the Perth Amboy GED program including 6 carry-ins. There are 20 new participants.

MCC Carteret GED:

As of July 1, 2014 there were a total of 24 participants in the Carteret GED program including 4 carry-ins. There are 20 new participants.

Perth Amboy MC4YOU

Nicole Montero, MC4YOU Perth Amboy Youth Coordinator, reported that so far for Program Year 14-15:

- 16 Participants were in Individualized Training Accounts (ITA'S)
- 4 Participants transferred to MC4YOU in New Brunswick
- 7 ITAs were completed
- 4 Transferred to MCWAG
- 7 Terminated.

New Brunswick MC4YOU

Juan DeJesus, MC4YOU New Brunswick Youth Coordinator, reported that so far for Program Year 14 -15:

- 14 Carry -Overs
- 11 New Participants

MCWAG Report

Nicole Joseph, MCWAG Coordinator, reported that so far for Program Year 14-15:

- 10 participants have been served including:

- 7 Carry-Ins
- 3 New
- 2 participants are currently on worksites
- 2 perspective candidates are being screened and if accepted by the MCWAG panel;, an orientation will be scheduled to start later this month

Need for Employers

Ms. Bramson asked the YIC members for recommendations and/or referrals for any employers that would be willing to offer worksites in the following areas: Pharmacy Technicians, Electricians, Plumbing, Culinary, Baking, Clerical, Medical Office, and Dental Assistance fields for the MCWAG program. They should contact Nicole Joseph, MCWAG Coordinator, with any referrals.

Industry Tours

There are four industry tours scheduled for Program year 2014–2015. The first Industry Tour was on October 8, 2014 at Parkside Industries. The second Industry Tour was on December 16, 2014 at PSE&G. Both tours were very successful. The next Industry tour will be a visit to Wegmans in March and the last Industry Tour will be a visit to Rutgers in April or May.

Recruitment

Nicole Montero and Ricky DeJesus have been actively recruiting the youth programs. Among the site visits were Sayreville, Old Bridge and Woodbridge High Schools. They also visited area libraries and health centers throughout Middlesex County.

In January, Youth Staff attended a workshop and recruitment at the Middlesex County Probation Office in New Brunswick where they met with Probation Officers. In September, 2014, Rick DeJesus met with the Probation Officers in Perth Amboy to recruit MCOWD for the Youth Program and explain our services.

The Youth Staff will be speaking to Counselors at DCP&P offices for their staff meetings in February or early March to disseminate materials and explain our services.

Ms. Bramson reported that we will start working with Jewish Renaissance Foundation as a worksite. The youth placed there need to be bilingual.

The YIC members were asked for recommendations and/or referrals for any employers that would be willing to offer volunteering sites for the Youth Work Readiness Program. They should contact Nicole Montero, MC4YOU Perth Amboy Coordinator. Sherri Goldberg, from the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, recommended Ms. Montero contact the senior citizen centers, nursing homes and the Salvation Army. Ms. Goldberg also informed the YIC members that the Jewish Renaissance Foundation is planning on having a street fair in May and that MC4YOU could use the street fair as a volunteering site.

Jody Bramson adjourned the meeting.

<p>The next meeting of the Youth Investment Council is Tuesday, May 5, 2015.</p>
